

ORMAT®

January 2, 2007

Mr. Dale Hoffman-Floerke, Chief
Salton Sea PEIR Comments
Department of Water Resources
Colorado River and Salton Sea Office
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Geothermal Energy and the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program

Dear Mr. Hoffman-Floerke:

ORMAT Technologies Inc. appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program. ORMAT is an environmentally conscience company that is involved in developing alternative energy projects around the world. ORMAT develops and operates geothermal energy in the Western United States including the Imperial Valley. We believe geothermal is a valuable asset to the restoration program.

Geothermal energy could provide the power needed for the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration and help to offset other operation and maintenance costs. Geothermal energy is currently a \$1 billion tax asset, (\$10 million in property taxes) in Imperial County and this could double just in the Salton Sea area. This includes the leases currently under the sea that cannot currently be accessed. Geothermal energy also currently provides \$10 million per year to the county in royalties plus the benefits of good paying jobs in the valley. Unfortunately only Alternative 7 identifies geothermal energy as part of this important restoration program.


The use of geothermal energy as a local renewable resource should be considered in the section "Power Production and Energy Resources." It is really only evaluated as a loss and a detriment criterion, not as a benefit to this restoration effort. The amount of electricity needed for all of the alternatives would only be about 10% of one 50 MW geothermal power plant. In order to support the ongoing costs of any of these programs you will need revenues and these could be supported by revenues from the power plants that get built with property taxes and royalties. It would be a win-win for the county and the restoration program if developed in this matter. This would also add the employment new geothermal projects bring and the employment from the restoration project.

ORMAT Nevada

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Members of the geothermal industry are available to help with incorporation of this resource into the Salton Sea restoration program. I look forward to talking with you. Please contact me at 775-336-0155 to set up an appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlene L. Wardlow".

Charlene L. Wardlow
Environmental/Regulatory Affairs Administrator

cc: Dan Can, Salton Sea Authority
Senator Denise Ducheny
Larry Grogan, Supervisor
Brad Poiriez, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District
Vince Signorotti, CalEnergy